

Petra Ruiz was an organizer, activist, and leader who used her life to stand up for farmworking women across California.

As the son of farmworkers in the eastern Coachella Valley, I am all too familiar with the social, economic, and political hardships the farmworking community faces on a daily basis. The struggles can often be so great that you have to have someone or something to look to for inspiration. For me, and for so many of us in the Coachella Valley, Petra Ruiz was one such inspiration.

Petra was a fierce and loving leader who was held in high esteem, even by the people who didn't agree with what she had to say. But it was hard not to agree with what she had to say. You see, Petra believed in helping farmworking women across California advocate for themselves, for their families, and for their communities in the struggle for equality and their basic human rights.

Petra got involved in the union movement in the 1970s and was a warrior for justice and equality within the farmworking community through her final days.

A phrase that I have heard repeatedly in talking with members of the community and with her family is "she was always there." Petra was always there.

Even as a mother and a grandmother to a big family, she worked with the United Farm Workers of America to advocate for the rights of the farmworker community. Petra led marches; she attended meetings; she would even go door-to-door with flyers making sure that farmworkers knew their rights.

Petra was a remarkable woman, revered, admired, a mover and shaker, an effective leader who led with her actions as much as she did by her words. She inspired me to never say no to my dreams, to pursue justice at every turn, and to always believe I could make a difference.

Madam Speaker, while she is missed dearly, Petra's legacy didn't end with her passing. Her impact is felt today and will continue in the lives of generations to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, on January 27, 2020, I was unable to be present for the recorded votes on roll call no. 23 and 24. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 943, the Never Again Education Act, and YEA on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 4704, the Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act.

#### HONORING JACOB WOOTTON

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Wootton. Jacob is a very special young man who has

exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 135, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Wootton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### CELEBRATING THE FOUNDING OF COMMONWEALTH OF FAITH CHURCH

### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Commonwealth of Faith Church as they put down their roots in Redford Township, Michigan.

Under the leadership of Pastor Torion Bridges, like-minded community members came together with the common goal of establishing a multi-generational house of worship to serve the spiritual needs of the surrounding community. They were able to establish a brand-new congregation by relighting the lamps of the building formerly home to St. Robert of Bellarmine Church. This group of people have sought to breathe new life into an existing building and work to bring a diverse group of people together in community service and in faith.

Please join me in recognizing Commonwealth of Faith Church as they establish their spiritual community and teachings, and become rooted in Redford.

#### HONORING MR. KEN ARMSTRONG FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

### HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ken Armstrong for his years of dedicated service to the Boy Scouts of America, specifically Troop ONE in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

First Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs chartered Troop ONE in 1923, making it the oldest continuously chartered chapter in the State of Arkansas. Mr. Armstrong's own career with Troop ONE began in 1994 and continued for another 25 years after he was named Scoutmaster for the troop in 1998. He will be retiring on February 9, 2020 after 21 years as the Scoutmaster for Troop ONE.

With more than 40 years of service as both a youth scout and as a Scoutmaster in Arkansas and Texas, Mr. Armstrong was also

awarded the Silver Beaver Award last year in recognition of his lifelong service in leadership. He remains a respected mentor and resource to countless young people in the Fourth District.

I'd like to thank Mr. Armstrong for his years of dedicated service and for his commitment to ensuring a brighter future for young people of the Fourth District of Arkansas.

#### NEVER AGAIN EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 27, 2020*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 943, "Never Again Education Act," which requires the creation of the Holocaust Education Assistance Program Fund for the Department of Education.

The fund will award grants to qualified entities to implement Holocaust education programs and host a series of regional workshops to provide teachers with assistance on how to incorporate Holocaust education into standard teaching while meeting state and local education requirements.

The establishment of the Holocaust Education Advisory Board to prepare application criteria for grant recipients, and the formulation of the Holocaust education program website will allow for a regulated, definitive introduction of this curriculum.

Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, is an international memorial day that marks the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camps in January 1945.

In addition to the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, we must also remember the victims of the Belzec, Bergen-Belsen, Buchenwald, Chelmno, Dachau, Dora-Mittelbau, Flossenburg, Gross-Rosen, Janowska, Kaiserwald, Majdanek, Mauthausen, Natzweiler-Struthof, Neuengamme, Oranienburg, Plaszow, Ravensbruck, Sachsenhausen, Sobibor, Stutthof, Terezin, Treblinka and Westerbork concentration camps.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum states that the extermination by the Nazi regime and its allies led to the deaths of 6 million Jews.

In addition to the millions of deaths within the Jewish community, the Third Reich separately targeted and murdered many other communities and ethnic groups, some estimates range from an additional 3 million to 11 million deaths.

These deaths include members of the LGBTQ community, the physically and mentally disabled, Freemasons, Jehovah's Witnesses, the Romani, Poles, Serbians, Spanish Republicans, members of the Soviet Union, Soviet Prisoners of War, people of Slavic descent, Germans of African descent, Communists, Socialists and more.

After Adolf Hitler's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, France and Britain declared war on Germany, officially beginning World War II.

World War II lasted from 1939 to 1945 and caused about 75 million deaths, including members of the military and civilians, around 3 percent of the world's population at the time.

Almost 75 years have passed since the end of World War II, but the aftermath is still a reminder of a brutal and merciless era of history